

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Original) A method of treating a body which is contaminated with prions, the method comprising:

contacting the body with a composition comprising a phenol to inactivate prions on the body.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the phenol includes at least one of the group consisting of *p*-chloro-*m*-xylanol, thymol, triclosan, 4-chloro, 3-methylphenol, pentachlorophenol, hexachlorophene, 2, 2-methyl-bis(4-chlorophenol), *p*-phenylphenol, and combinations thereof.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the composition further includes at least one of *o*-phenylphenol and *o*-benzyl-*p*-chlorophenol.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the phenol is at a concentration of at least 0.005M.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the phenol is at a concentration of up to about 0.2M.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the phenol has a log P_c value of between 2 and 6.5.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the phenol has a log P_c value between 2 and 5.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the phenol has a log P_c value of at least 4.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition includes a phenol at a concentration of at least about 10%.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition includes a soluble inorganic salt.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the soluble salt includes sodium chloride.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the soluble inorganic salt comprises a sodium salt which is present at a concentration of at least 2% by weight.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the phenol includes *o*-phenylphenol OPP and *o*-benzyl-*p*-chlorophenol in a solution that includes brine.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the phenol includes PCMX.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the phenol complexes with the prions and precipitates.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the phenol has minimal solubility.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the phenol includes at least one of *o*-phenylphenol and *o*-benzyl-*p*-chlorophenol.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the body includes a surface and the method includes contacting the surface with the composition comprising the phenol to inactivate prions on the surface.

19. (Original) A method of determining the effectiveness of a phenol-based decontaminant composition on a material which is contaminated with prions comprising:

- 5 combining a solution of the phenol-based decontaminant with a protein material; and
determining a measure of the phenol taken up by the protein material;
and
determining the effectiveness of the composition based on the amount of phenol taken up.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the protein material includes at least one of a prion-containing material and bovine serum albumin.

21. (New) The method of claim 1, further including before the contacting step:

- 5 combining a solution of each of a plurality of phenol-based decontaminants with protein material;
determining a measure of the phenol taken up by the protein material;
determining the effectiveness of each of the decontaminants based on an amount of phenol taken up by the protein material; and
performing the contact step with one of the phenols determined to be effective.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition includes at least one of *o*-phenylphenol and *o*-benzyl-*p*-chlorophenol.

23. (New) A method of treating a body which is contaminated with prions, the method comprising:

- 5 providing a composition comprising at least one phenol, the composition comprising a phenol concentration of at least 0.005M and an inorganic salt which is present at a concentration of at least 2% by weight, the phenol including at least one of the group consisting of *p*-chloro-*m*-xylanol; thymol; triclosan; 4-chloro,

3-methylphenol; pentachlorophenol; hexachlorophene; 2,2-methyl-bis(4-chlorophenol); *p*-phenylphenol; 2,3-dimethylphenol; 3,5-dimethoxyphenol; 2,6-dimethoxyphenol; *o*-phenylphenol; *p*-tertiary-amylphenol; *o*-benzyl-*p*-chlorophenol;
10 *p*-chloro, *m*-cresol; *o*-cresol; *p*-cresol; 2,2-methylenebis(*p*-chlorophenol); 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid; *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid; caffeic acid; protocatechuic acid; *p*-nitrophenol; 3-phenolphenol; 2,3-dimethoxyphenol; 2,2-methoxy-bis(4-chlorophenol); and para-phenylphenol; and

contacting the body with the composition to effect a log reduction of at
15 least 4.1 for prions on the body.

24 (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the phenol includes *o*-benzyl-*p*-chlorophenol.